

water systems continue to deteriorate. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities estimates that about \$14 billion will have to be spent over the next five years just to protect the \$30 billion already invested.

We should be acting now to ensure the health and safety of Canadians, and to avoid higher repair costs in the future.

Money spent now on renewing municipal infrastructures would be money well spent to maintain the quality of existing services and to boost our economy. These public works projects would employ tens of thousands and use Canadian materials and equipment.

● (1410)

The Conservative Government agrees that there is a problem but refuses to help even though over one million Canadians are still out of work and even though previous federal Governments have participated in projects of this type. Therefore I urge the Government to modify its position and to take a more constructive and co-operative approach in working with other levels of government on this important issue.

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PEACE

SUPPORT FOR SUPERPOWERS' EFFORTS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON DISARMAMENT

Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I am certain you will agree that the pursuit of peace is the responsibility of us all, not only of elected persons in the House of Commons but of all Canadians.

During the recent Easter recess I met with many of my constituents, especially young people in Cubs and Scouts, Brownies and Girl Guides, with various church groups, with neighbours, family, Veterans Against Nuclear Arms, and many others. There seems to be a real feeling that the two superpowers, the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union, are going through a period of sincere efforts in Geneva to deal with verification agreements, troop withdrawals, and reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons. Whether for economic, political or peaceful reasons, President Reagan and Soviet Leader Gorbachev seem intent on resolving these remarkably important issues.

I call upon the Government of Canada to continue to offer the hand of Canadian diplomacy and understanding to these two world leaders.

Someone asked me the other day why I was concerned about the pursuit of peace. My answer was that I shudder to think of the alternative.

S. O. 21

TAX REFORM

TAXPAYER'S INELIGIBILITY FOR CHILD TAX CREDIT

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, as most Canadians have now filled out their 1986 tax returns and have sent them in we are reminded once again of the incredible injustice in our tax system. For example, in some years a teller in the Royal Bank of Canada or a teller in the Bank of Montreal paid more tax than the entire bank. Sometimes a gas jockey pumping gas for Shell Oil has actually paid more income tax than the entire oil company.

I received a letter the other day from a constituent in British Columbia who states:

Just another discrepancy in our tax laws that discriminate against poor people. I am not eligible for any portion of the child tax credit, despite the fact I had my 13-year-old daughter for eight months last year. My ex-husband got the whole year's tax credit from 1986 as he had her in his care on December 31, 1986. The irony of this was that I had never received a penny from him for child custody in the five or six years I supported my daughter in poverty—

I was on welfare all of last year and am still paying bills that were a direct result of supporting a teenager on too little income.

Is this fair in terms of our present tax system?

* * *

[Translation]

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Louis-Hébert): Mr. Speaker, the new Canadian science and technology policy is the outcome of a true federal-provincial consensus.

Canada's new national policy, as announced recently by the Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Oberle), is the outcome of a process initiated in 1985 to emphasize increasingly scientific and technological matters among Government concerns.

The final document signed by the Federal Minister and 12 provincial and territorial ministers, members of a committee that was mandated to negotiate the goals and contents of that agreement, symbolizes the Canadian Government's commitment to coordinate scientific and technological development efforts. That desire to coordinate Canadian and provincial scientific policies was a major motivation in the development of a truly all-Canadian policy.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, this coming Friday, the Minister will be inaugurating the Biotechnology Research Institute in Montreal. This is a major event that once more points to this Government's commitment to the development of science and technology in Canada, including Quebec.